

C O M M O N W E A L T H   O F   V I R G I N I A



# RIPARIAN BUFFER



## *Implementation Plan*

*July 1998*

VIRGINIA RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER PANEL

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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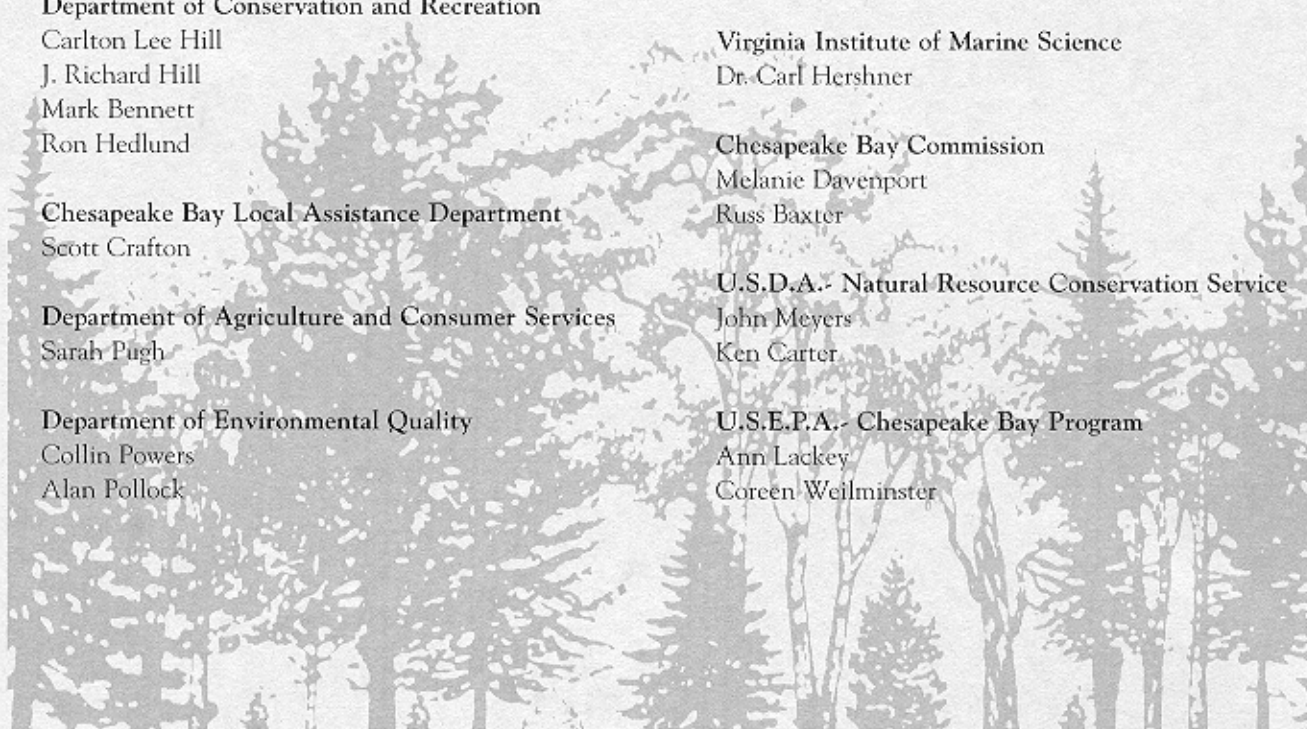
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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

RIPARIAN BUFFER



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Riparian buffers — areas of trees, shrubs or other vegetation adjacent to streams — play a significant role in conserving living resources. Recognizing these environmental benefits, the multi-jurisdictional Chesapeake Bay Executive Council adopted Directive 94-1 in October 1994. This directive called on the Chesapeake Bay Program to develop a policy on riparian forest buffers. Following a two year effort by a Panel representing many interest groups and experts, the Executive Council adopted several goals and policy recommendations to enhance stewardship of riparian areas. Specifically, the goals call for conserving existing riparian buffers and restoring 2,010 miles of new riparian forest buffers within the Bay watershed by the year 2010. Virginia's commitment is to restore 610 miles of riparian forest buffers in the same time frame.



Thanks to the information and education efforts of many federal and state agency partners and stakeholders, as well as to advances in our scientific understanding of buffer functions, riparian buffers are being recognized for their ecological value and planted across the Commonwealth. We trust this implementation plan will promote further efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay by conserving and restoring riparian forest and other buffers.

*James W. Garner, State Forester, Chair*  
Virginia Riparian Forest Buffer Panel